(c) the timely repaid loan amount out of the loan amount of more than 10 lakh alongwith the details of the loan amount gone as bad debt;

(d) whether Government are making special effort for early realization of the disbursed loans and the results thereof; and

(e) the steps Government have taken to see to it that the poor get loans early without any difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Imposition of service tax

3997. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rationable behind imposition of service tax and be whom it is intended to be borne;

(b) what is the reason for keeping single rate of service tax for all types of services, if goods can be taxed at different rates under VAT; and

(c) whether the services provided by organized sector like telecom, banking, railways/transport where the availers of services have no option, can be fixed at low/nominal rates and the 12 per cent slab be applied only on services availed by the elite and well off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Service tax was introduced in 1994 so as to broaden the tax base, to bring about neutrality in consumption choices and on grounds of equity. Service tax is intended to be passed on to consumers of taxable services;

(b) Uniform rate is neutral in its impact on production and conumption decisions and obviates disputes of classification of services.

(c) There is no proposal at present under the consideration of the Central Government to prescribe a lower rate of service tax for any specified services.